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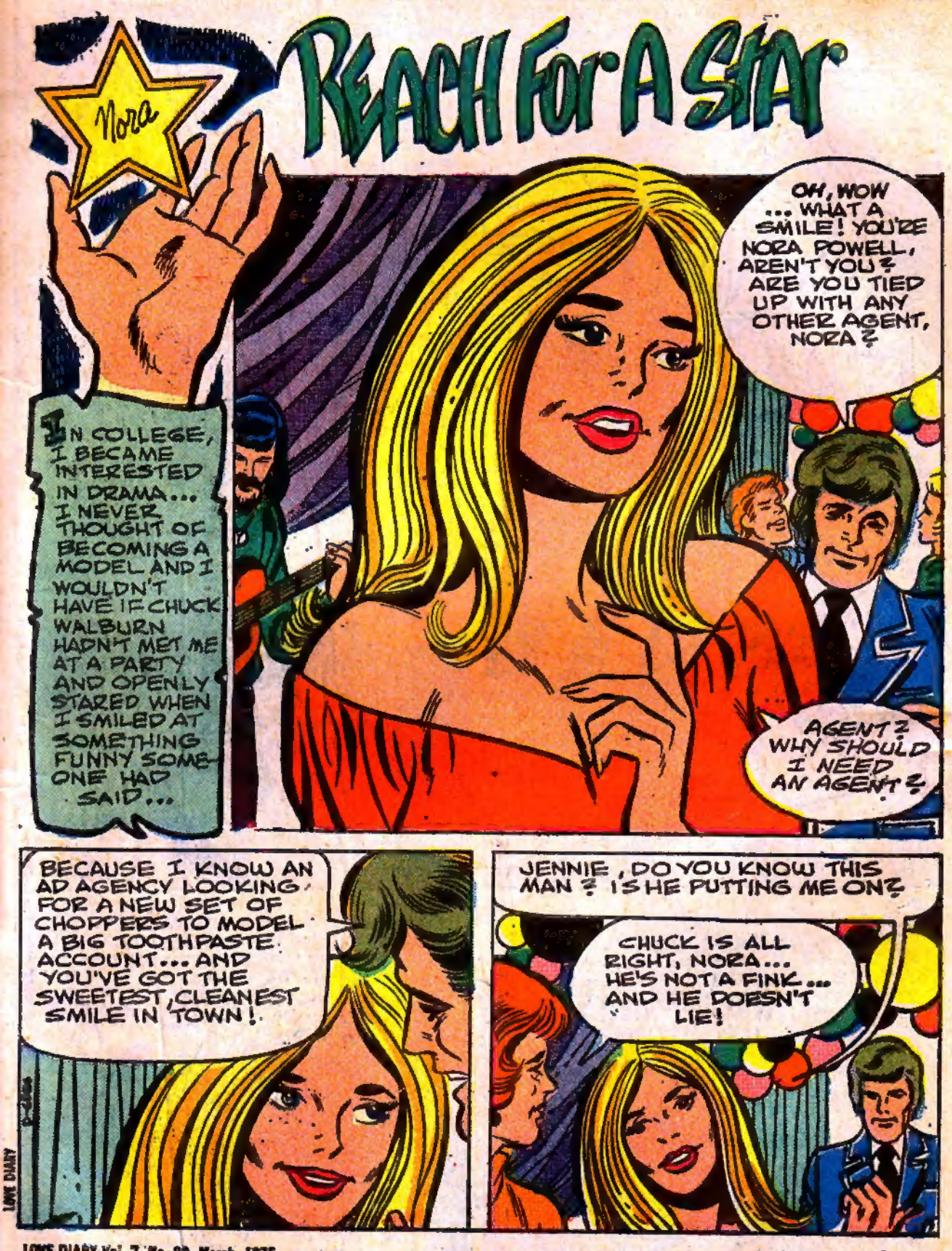
Love Diary

TERESA LIED HER-SELF INTO HIS ARMS ... WHEN WILL HE GET SMART TO HER?

00355


Nora
REACH For A STAR
IN COLLEGE, I BECAME INTERESTED IN DRAMA... I NEVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A MODEL AND I WOULDN'T HAVE IF CHUCK WALBURN HADN'T MET ME AT A PARTY AND OPENLY STARED WHEN I SMILED AT SOMETHING FUNNY SOMEONE HAD SAID...
OH, WOW ... WHAT A SMILE! YOU'RE NORA POWELL, AREN'T YOU? ARE YOU TIED UP WITH ANY OTHER AGENT, NORA?
AGENT? WHY SHOULD I NEED AN AGENT?
BECAUSE I KNOW AN AD AGENCY LOOKING FOR A NEW SET OF CHOPPERS TO MODEL A BIG TOOTHPASTE ACCOUNT... AND YOU'VE GOT THE SWEETEST, CLEANEST SMILE IN TOWN!
JENNIE, DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN? IS HE PUTTING ME ON?
CHUCK IS ALL RIGHT, NORA... HE'S NOT A FINK... AND HE DOESN'T LIE!
LOVE DIARY

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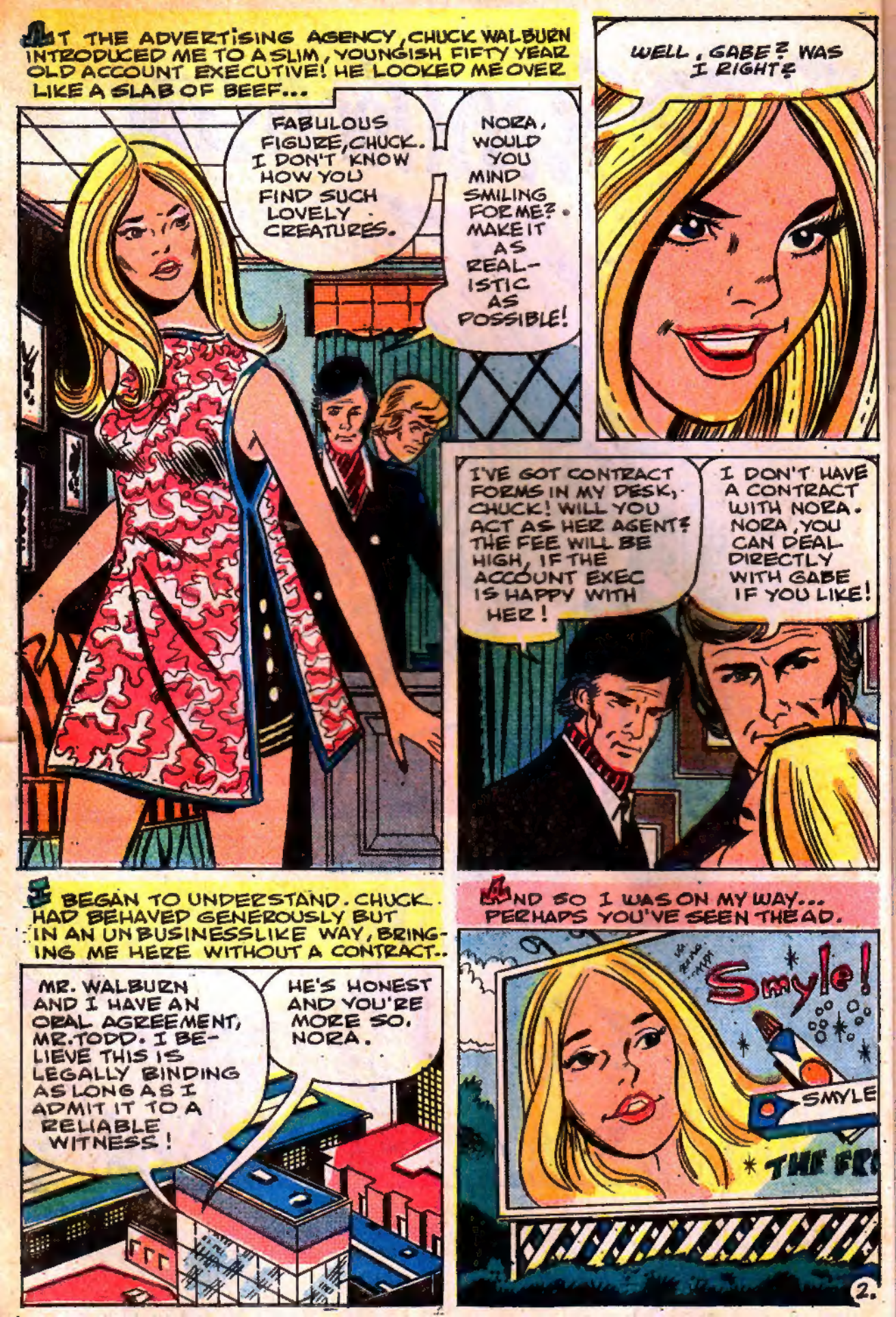
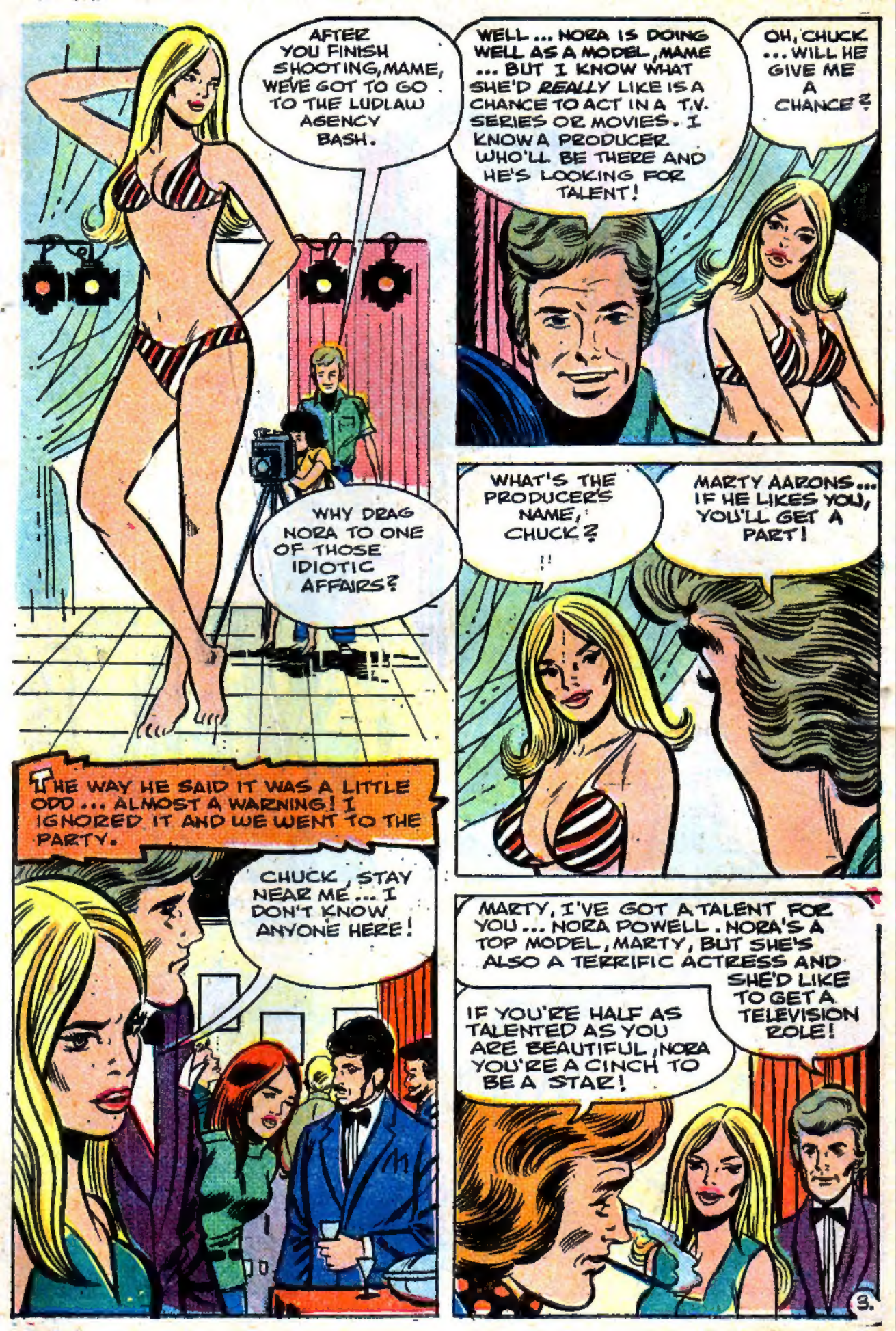
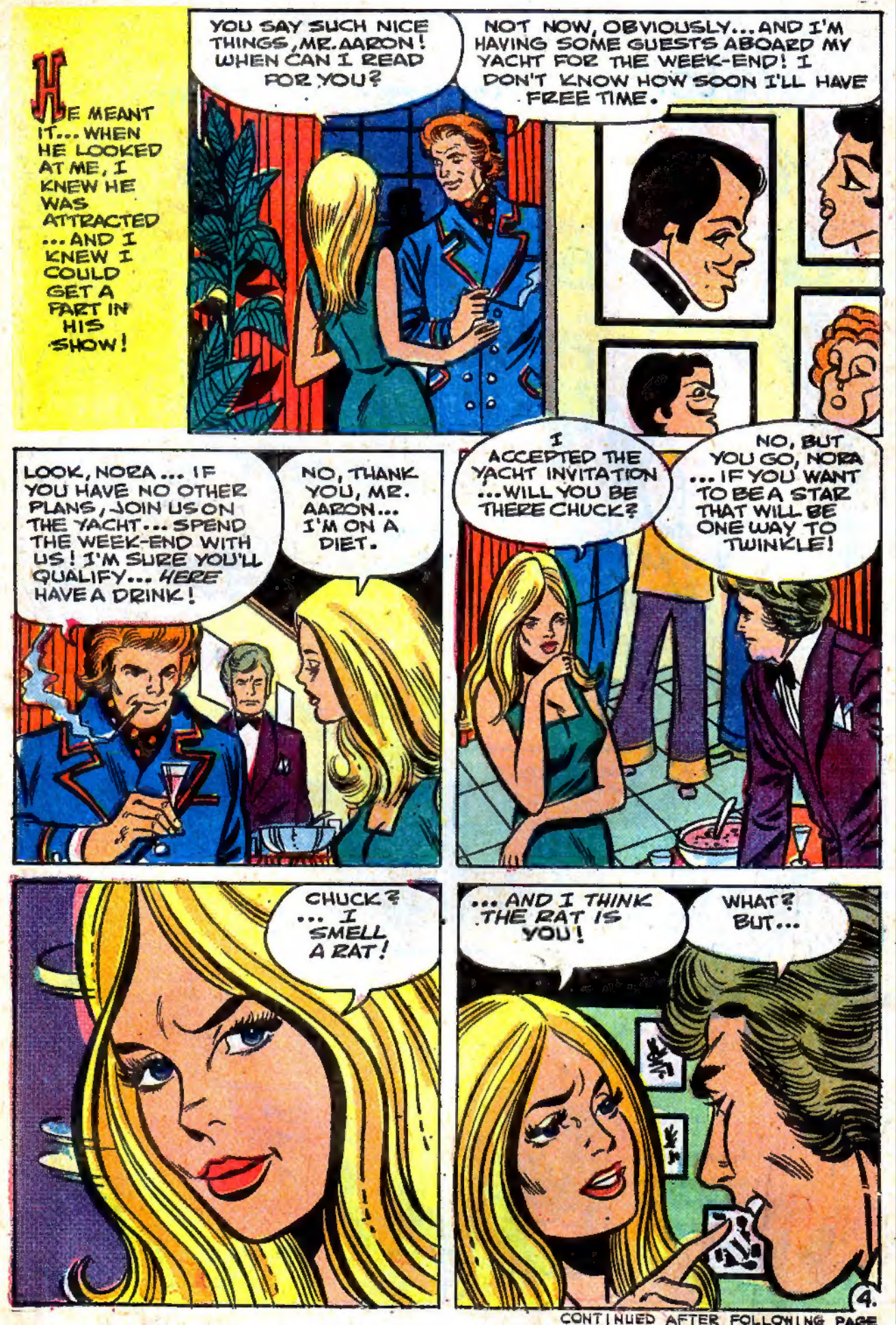

AT THE ADVERTISING AGENCY, CHUCK WALBURN INTRODUCED ME TO A SLIM, YOUNGISH FIFTY YEAR OLD ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE! HE LOOKED ME OVER LIKE A SLAB OF BEEF...
FABULOUS FIGURE, CHUCK. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FIND SUCH LOVELY CREATURES.
NORA, WOULD YOU MIND SMILING FOR ME? MAKE IT AS REAL-ISTIC AS POSSIBLE!
WELL, GABE? WAS I RIGHT?
I'VE GOT CONTRACT FORMS IN MY DESK, CHUCK! WILL YOU ACT AS HER AGENT? THE FEE WILL BE HIGH, IF THE ACCOUNT EXEC IS HAPPY WITH HER!
I DON'T HAVE A CONTRACT WITH NORA. NORA, YOU CAN DEAL DIRECTLY WITH GABE IF YOU LIKE!
BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND. CHUCK HAD BEHAVED GENEROUSLY BUT IN AN UNBUSINESSLIKE WAY, BRINGING ME HERE WITHOUT A CONTRACT..
MR. WALBURN AND I HAVE AN ORAL AGREEMENT, MR. TODD. I BELIEVE THIS IS LEGALLY BINDING AS LONG AS I ADMIT IT TO A RELIABLE WITNESS!
HE'S HONEST AND YOU'RE MORE SO, NORA.
AND SO I WAS ON MY WAY... PERHAPS YOU'VE SEEN THE AD.
Smyle!
SMYLE
2.


AFTER YOU FINISH SHOOTING, MAME, WE'VE GOT TO GO TO THE LUDLAW AGENCY BASH.
WELL ... NORA IS DOING WELL AS A MODEL, MAME ... BUT I KNOW WHAT SHE'D REALLY LIKE IS A CHANCE TO ACT IN A T.V. SERIES OR MOVIES. I KNOW A PRODUCER WHO'LL BE THERE AND HE'S LOOKING FOR TALENT!
OH, CHUCK ... WILL HE GIVE ME A CHANCE?
WHY DRAG NORA TO ONE OF THOSE IDIOTIC AFFAIRS?
WHAT'S THE PRODUCER'S NAME, CHUCK?
MARTY AARONS... IF HE LIKES YOU, YOU'LL GET A PART!
THE WAY HE SAID IT WAS A LITTLE ODD ... ALMOST A WARNING! I IGNORED IT AND WE WENT TO THE PARTY.
CHUCK, STAY NEAR ME ... I DON'T KNOW ANYONE HERE!
MARTY, I'VE GOT A TALENT FOR YOU ... NORA POWELL. NORA'S A TOP MODEL, MARTY, BUT SHE'S ALSO A TERRIFIC ACTRESS AND SHE'D LIKE TO GET A TELEVISION ROLE!
IF YOU'RE HALF AS TALENTED AS YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, NORA YOU'RE A CINCH TO BE A STAR!


HE MEANT IT... WHEN HE LOOKED AT ME, I KNEW HE WAS ATTRACTED ... AND I KNEW I COULD GET A PART IN HIS SHOW!
YOU SAY SUCH NICE THINGS, MR. AARON! WHEN CAN I READ FOR YOU?
NOT NOW, OBVIOUSLY... AND I'M HAVING SOME GUESTS ABOARD MY YACHT FOR THE WEEK-END! I DON'T KNOW HOW SOON I'LL HAVE FREE TIME.
LOOK, NORA ... IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER PLANS, JOIN US ON THE YACHT... SPEND THE WEEK-END WITH US! I'M SURE YOU'LL QUALIFY... HERE HAVE A DRINK!
NO, THANK YOU, MR. AARON... I'M ON A DIET.
I ACCEPTED THE YACHT INVITATION ...WILL YOU BE THERE CHUCK?
NO, BUT YOU GO, NORA ... IF YOU WANT TO BE A STAR THAT WILL BE ONE WAY TO TWINKLE!
CHUCK? ... I SMELL A RAT!
... AND I THINK THE RAT IS YOU!
WHAT? BUT...
4.
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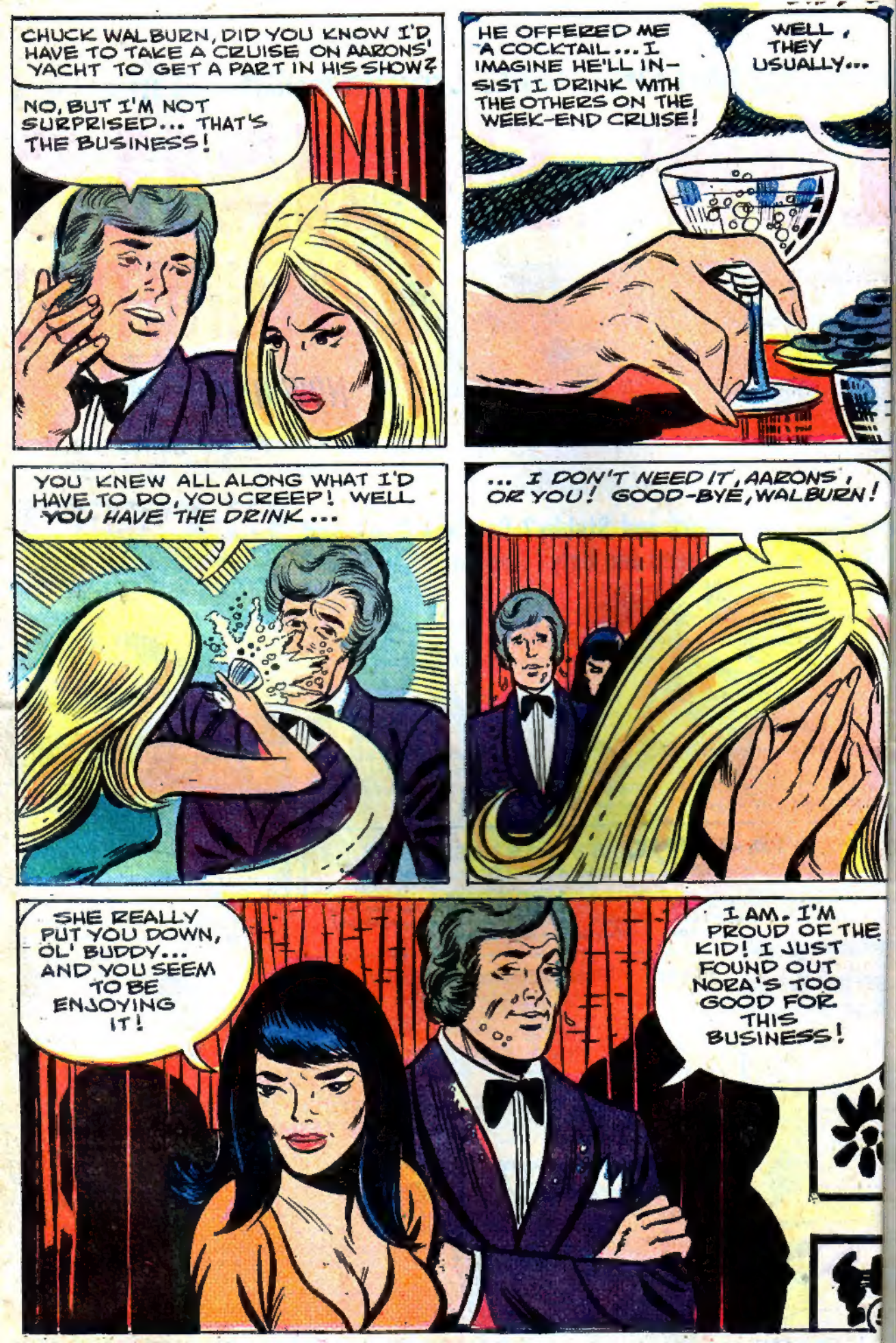

CHUCK WALBURN, DID YOU KNOW I'D HAVE TO TAKE A CRUISE ON AARONS' YACHT TO GET A PART IN HIS SHOW?
NO, BUT I'M NOT SURPRISED... THAT'S THE BUSINESS!
HE OFFERED ME A COCKTAIL... I IMAGINE HE'LL INSIST I DRINK WITH THE OTHERS ON THE WEEK-END CRUISE!
WELL, THEY USUALLY...
YOU KNEW ALL ALONG WHAT I'D HAVE TO DO, YOU CREEP! WELL YOU HAVE THE DRINK...
... I DON'T NEED IT, AARONS, OR YOU! GOOD-BYE, WALBURN!
SHE REALLY PUT YOU DOWN, OL' BUDDY... AND YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING IT!
I AM. I'M PROUD OF THE KID! I JUST FOUND OUT NORA'S TOO GOOD FOR THIS BUSINESS!

I WAS PACKING WHEN THE DOORBELL RANG! I HAD A HUNCH WHO IT WOULD BE...

IT'S YOU! LOOK, WALBURN, I'M NOT GOING TO GO ON THAT YA...

I DON'T WANT YOU TO, NORA!

I NEVER WANTED YOU TO PLAY FOOTSIE WITH AARONS, NORA ... BUT IT WASN'T UP TO *ME* TO DRAW UP RULES OF CONDUCT FOR YOU!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT ANGRY I WALKED OUT, CHUCK?

I'M VERY, VERY HAPPY, NORA! YOU SEE ... I LOVE YOU ... AND I THINK I'D JUMP OFF A ROOF IF YOU WENT THAT ROUTE!

YOU LOVE ME? OH, DARLING...

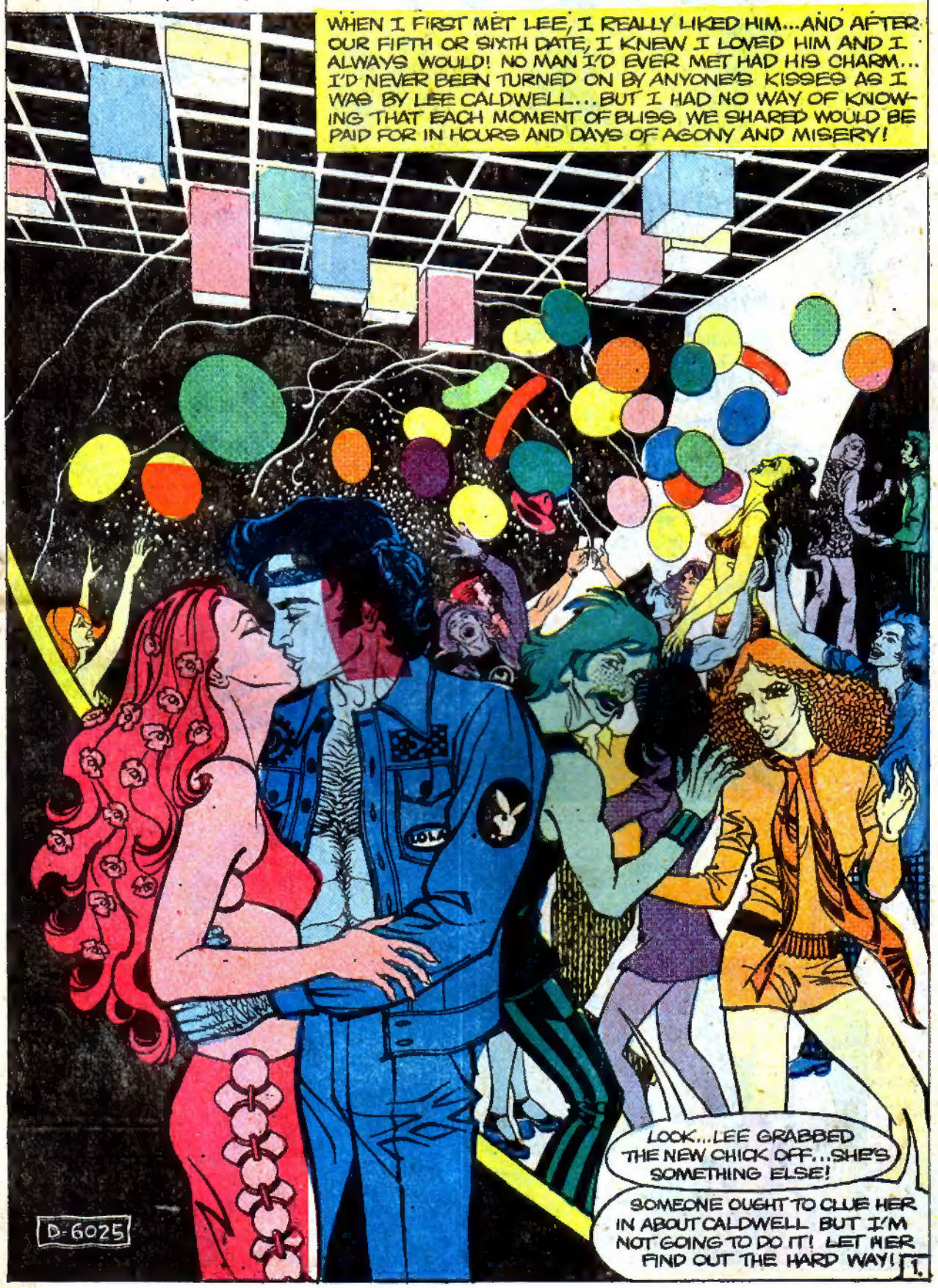
ONE THING BUGS ME... NOW I'LL ALWAYS WONDER HOW I'D HAVE MADE OUT IF I GOT THE CHANCE!

NOT TO WORRY ... AARONS WAS SO IMPRESSED, HE TOLD ME YOU'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT TUESDAY TO READ FOR HIM!

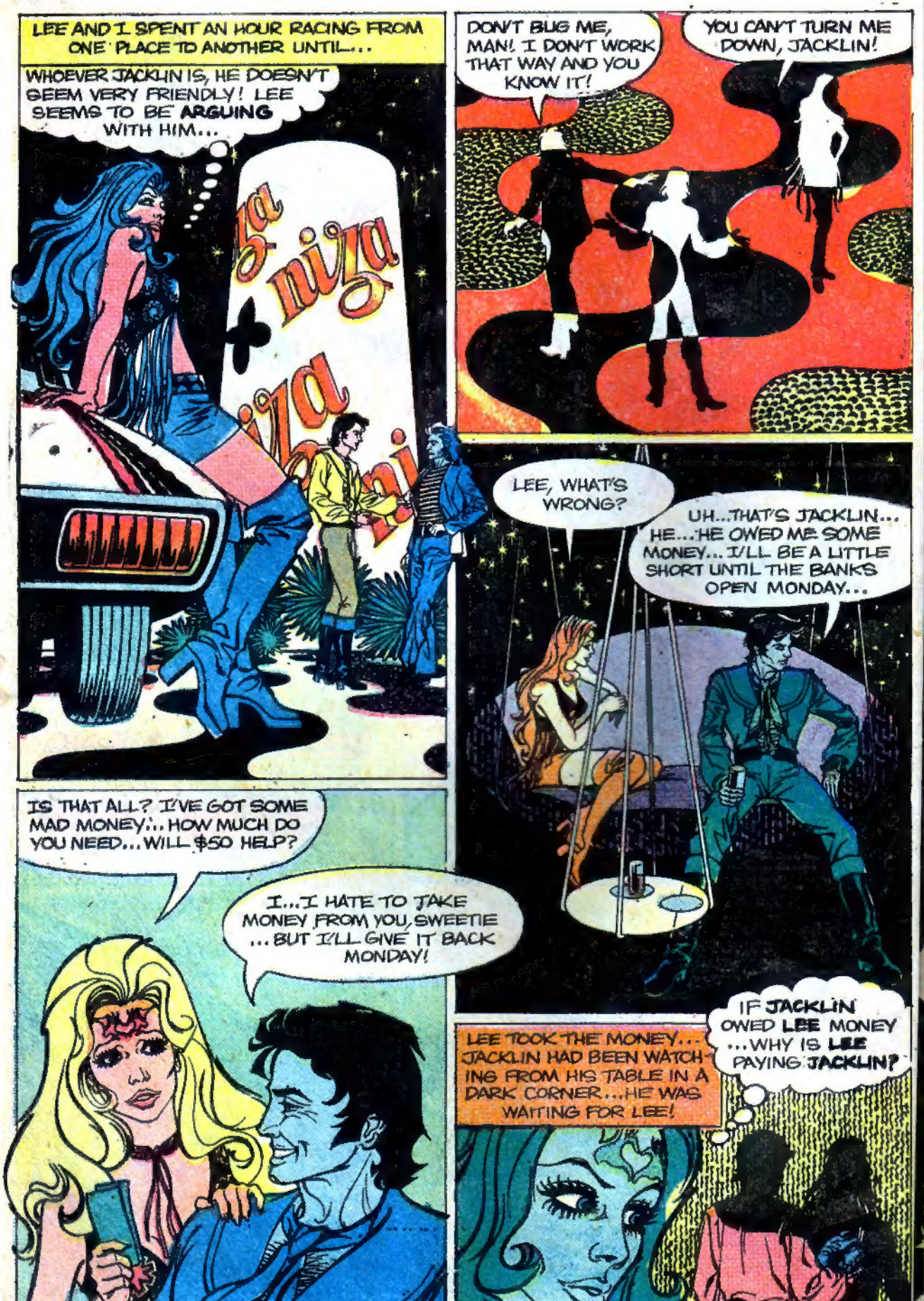
I SIGHED AND WENT INTO CHUCK'S ARMS, BACK TO HIS KISSES... I KNEW I WOULDN'T TRY FOR THE PART! I HAD MY CAREER... RIGHT WHERE I WAS AT THE MOMENT!

END

I'LL ALWAYS LOVE HIM


WHEN I FIRST MET LEE, I REALLY LIKED HIM...AND AFTER OUR FIFTH OR SIXTH DATE, I KNEW I LOVED HIM AND I ALWAYS WOULD! NO MAN I'D EVER MET HAD HIS CHARM... I'D NEVER BEEN TURNED ON BY ANYONE'S KISSES AS I WAS BY LEE CALDWELL...BUT I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT EACH MOMENT OF BLISS WE SHARED WOULD BE PAID FOR IN HOURS AND DAYS OF AGONY AND MISERY!
LOOK...LEE GRABBED THE NEW CHICK OFF...SHE'S SOMETHING ELSE!
SOMEONE OUGHT TO CLUE HER IN ABOUT CALDWELL BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT! LET HER FIND OUT THE HARD WAY!
D-6025
1.

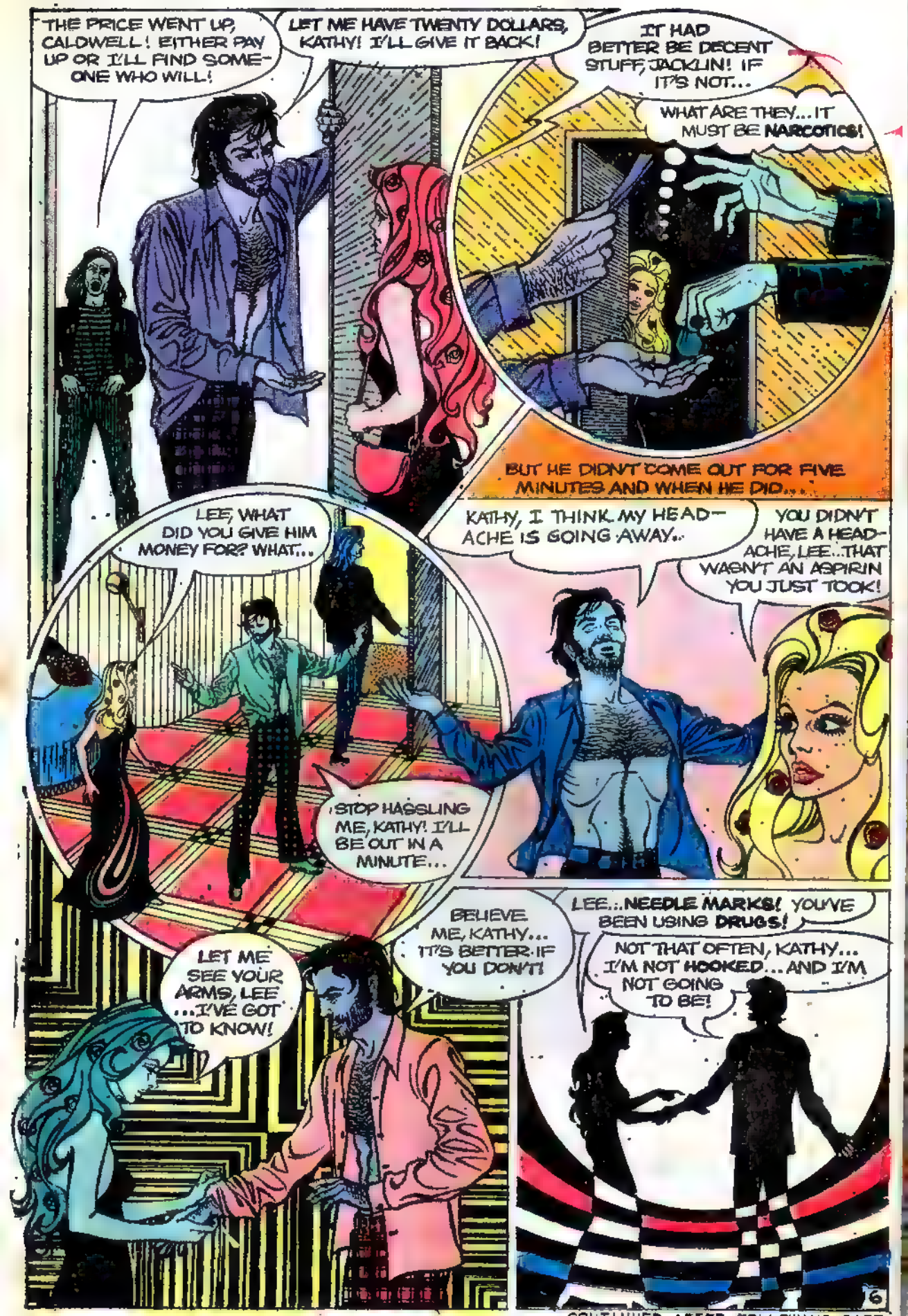
LEE WAS REALLY WITH IT...HE TOOK ME TO THE WILDEST PLACES IN TOWN...
LEE, THIS IS GREAT! THE MUSIC IS SOMETHING ELSE!
I KNOW...BUT WE'VE GOT TO SPLIT! THERE'S A DUDE I'VE GOT TO SEE... AND HE'S NOT HERE!
WE WENT TO A FEW BARS ...DARK, INTIMATE PLACES WITH DIMLY SEEN CUSTOMERS HUDDLED IN THE SHADOWS IN THE BACKGROUND!
THIS IS NICE, LEE...
JACKLIN HASN'T BEEN HERE? THANKS, ALICIA ...COME ON, KATHY.
DISCO
BAR
DISCO
LEE IS EDGY ...MAYBE HE'S WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING!
WHY ARE YOU SO ANXIOUS TO FIND THIS CHARACTER, LEE? IS HE A GOOD FRIEND OF YOURS?
FRIEND? NOT EXACTLY, KATHY... BUT RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT TO SEE HIM!
2


LEE AND I SPENT AN HOUR RACING FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER UNTIL...
WHOEVER JACKLIN IS, HE DOESN'T SEEM VERY FRIENDLY! LEE SEEMS TO BE ARGUING WITH HIM...
DON'T BUG ME, MAN! I DON'T WORK THAT WAY AND YOU KNOW IT!
YOU CAN'T TURN ME DOWN, JACKLIN!
LEE, WHAT'S WRONG?
UH...THAT'S JACKLIN... HE...HE OWED ME SOME MONEY... I'LL BE A LITTLE SHORT UNTIL THE BANKS OPEN MONDAY...
IS THAT ALL? I'VE GOT SOME MAD MONEY... HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED... WILL $50 HELP?
I...I HATE TO TAKE MONEY FROM YOU, SWEETIE ...BUT I'LL GIVE IT BACK MONDAY!
LEE TOOK THE MONEY... JACKLIN HAD BEEN WATCHING FROM HIS TABLE IN A DARK CORNER...HE WAS WAITING FOR LEE!
IF JACKLIN OWED LEE MONEY ...WHY IS LEE PAYING JACKLIN?
3

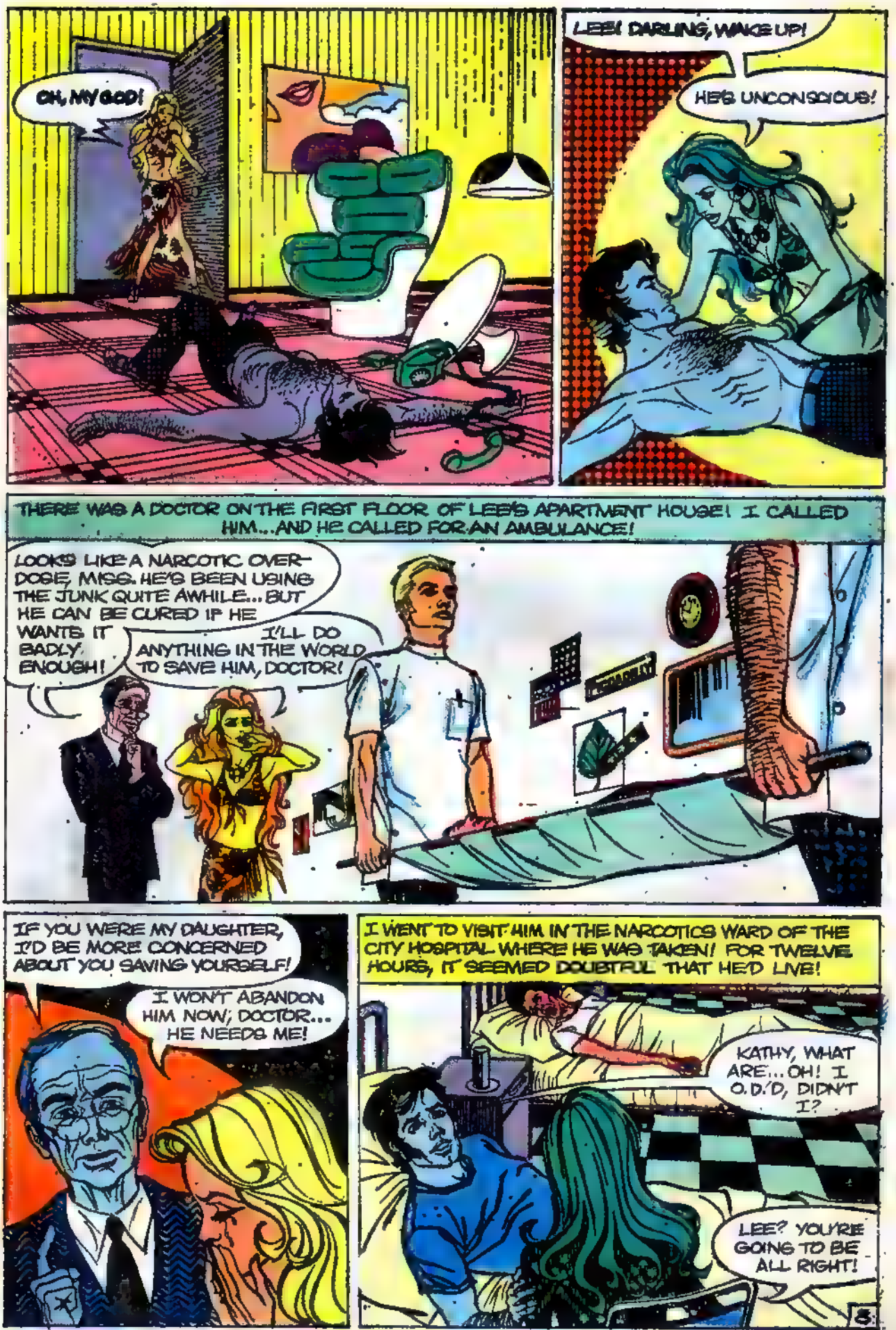
BUT AFTERWARD, LEE WAS MORE RELAXED...WE HAD A REALLY MARVELOUS TIME AND LATER...
DARLING; YOU'RE REALLY GREAT...
OH, LEE...
I NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU, DARLING... WILL YOU MARRY ME?
HE REALLY MEANT IT...AND SATURDAY NIGHT, AFTER A BEAUTIFUL EVENING OUT, HE SURPRISED ME WITH...
OH, LEE...IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS ABOUT ANYONE...HE'S SO SWEET!

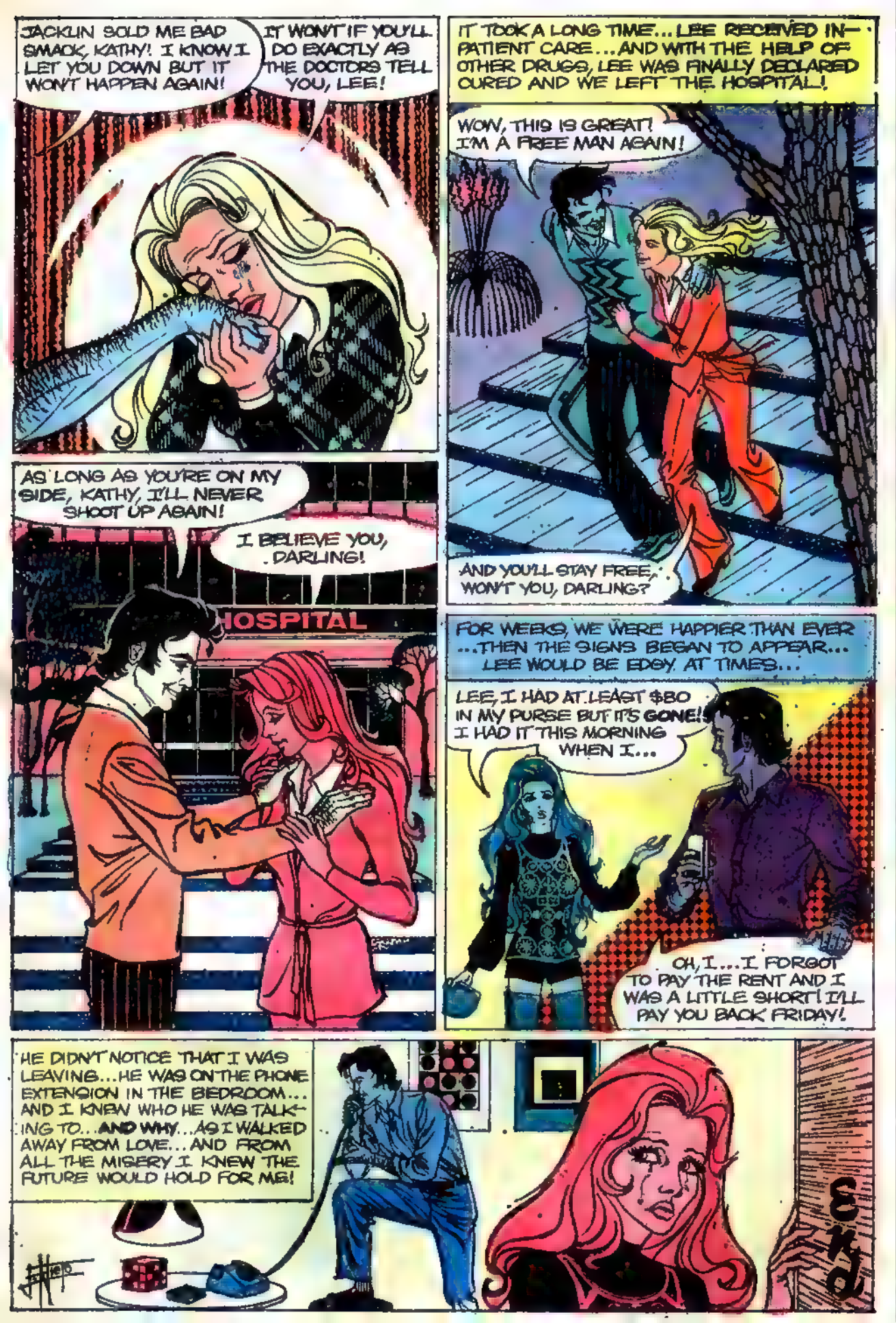
CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

BUT IN A FEW DAYS, LEE WAS EDGY AGAIN...I DIDN'T SEE HIM ONE FRIDAY NIGHT WHEN WE HAD A DATE...
...SORRY I CAN'T MAKE IT, DARLING! I HAVE A... REALLY BAD HEAD-ACHE... I'LL FEEL BETTER TOMORROW!
I'M SURE YOU WILL, LEE! I CAN TELL BY YOUR VOICE. YOU DON'T FEEL WELL!
HE SOUNDED TERRIBLE! HE REALLY NEEDS HELP!
I'M GOING OVER THERE...AFTER ALL, IF I'M GOING TO MARRY HIM, I'D BETTER GET USED TO NURSING HIM WHEN HE'S SICK!
STOP MEDDLING, KATHY! NOW YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE...TOO LATE! GO IN THE BATHROOM!
LEE, YOU'RE SHAKING ALL OVER! WHO'S AT THE DOOR?
DING DONG
IT'S ABOUT TIME, JA...KATHY!
I BROUGHT SOME ASPIRIN...I THOUGHT I'D FIX YOU SOMETHING TO EAT!
IT'S JACKLIN... LEE IS OFFERING HIM MONEY AGAIN BUT JACKLIN ISN'T TAKING IT! THEY'RE ARGUING!


THE PRICE WENT UP, CALDWELL! EITHER PAY UP OR I'LL FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL!
LET ME HAVE TWENTY DOLLARS, KATHY! I'LL GIVE IT BACK!
IT HAD BETTER BE DECENT STUFF, JACKLIN! IF IT'S NOT...
WHAT ARE THEY... IT MUST BE NARCOTICS!
BUT HE DIDN'T COME OUT FOR FIVE MINUTES AND WHEN HE DID...
LEE, WHAT DID YOU GIVE HIM MONEY FOR? WHAT...
KATHY, I THINK MY HEADACHE IS GOING AWAY..
YOU DIDN'T HAVE A HEADACHE, LEE...THAT WASN'T AN ASPIRIN YOU JUST TOOK!
STOP HASSLING ME, KATHY! I'LL BE OUT IN A MINUTE...
LET ME SEE YOUR ARMS, LEE ...I'VE GOT TO KNOW!
BELIEVE ME, KATHY... IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T!
LEE...NEEDLE MARKS! YOU'VE BEEN USING DRUGS!
NOT THAT OFTEN, KATHY... I'M NOT HOOKED... AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE!
6

LEE, IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME, YOU'LL SEE A DOCTOR ...ONE WHO SPECIALIZES IN THIS SORT OF THING!
PLEASE, DARLING...JUST TEN DAYS...YOU'LL SEE ...I'LL KICK THE HABIT!
I WILL, KATHY... BUT GIVE ME TIME... I CAN LICK THIS THING MYSELF!
LEE CLAIMED HE COULD BUY METHODONE 'ON THE STREET' WITHOUT GOING TO A CITY CLINIC AND BECOMING REGISTERED AS A NARCOTICS ADDICT...BUT HE NEEDED MONEY SO...
JEWELRY BOUGHT AND SOLD
OH, LEE...I'LL HELP YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN!
YOU COULD'VE GOTTEN MORE, LEE...BUT YOU WERE IN A HURRY!
LEE ASSURED ME THAT METHODONE WOULD SOLVE HIS PROBLEM BUT...
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, KATHY? THEY PAID ME LESS THAN HALF WHAT I GAVE FOR THAT RING SIX WEEKS AGO!
I'VE BEEN PHONING FOR AN HOUR BUT HIS PHONE IS OFF THE HOOK! HIS DOOR CHIMES ARE LOUD...HE SHOULD WAKE UP!
LEE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'VE GOT THIS KEY...I HAD A DUPLICATE OF HIS MADE TWO WEEKS AGO!
7


OH, MY GOD!
LEE! DARLING, WAKE UP!
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
THERE WAS A DOCTOR ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF LEE'S APARTMENT HOUSE! I CALLED HIM...AND HE CALLED FOR AN AMBULANCE!
LOOKS LIKE A NARCOTIC OVER-DOSE, MISS. HE'S BEEN USING THE JUNK QUITE AWHILE... BUT HE CAN BE CURED IF HE WANTS IT BADLY ENOUGH!
I'LL DO ANYTHING IN THE WORLD TO SAVE HIM, DOCTOR!
IF YOU WERE MY DAUGHTER, I'D BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT YOU SAVING YOURSELF!
I WON'T ABANDON HIM NOW, DOCTOR... HE NEEDS ME!
I WENT TO VISIT HIM IN THE NARCOTICS WARD OF THE CITY HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS TAKEN! FOR TWELVE HOURS, IT SEEMED DOUBTFUL THAT HE'D LIVE!
KATHY, WHAT ARE... OH! I O.D.'D, DIDN'T I?
LEE? YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!


JACKLIN SOLD ME BAD SMACK, KATHY! I KNOW I LET YOU DOWN BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
IT WON'T IF YOU'LL DO EXACTLY AS THE DOCTORS TELL YOU, LEE!
IT TOOK A LONG TIME... LEE RECEIVED IN-PATIENT CARE... AND WITH THE HELP OF OTHER DRUGS, LEE WAS FINALLY DECLARED CURED AND WE LEFT THE HOSPITAL!
WOW, THIS IS GREAT! I'M A FREE MAN AGAIN!
AND YOU'LL STAY FREE, WON'T YOU, DARLING?
AS LONG AS YOU'RE ON MY SIDE, KATHY, I'LL NEVER SHOOT UP AGAIN!
I BELIEVE YOU, DARLING!
HOSPITAL
FOR WEEKS, WE WERE HAPPIER THAN EVER ...THEN THE SIGNS BEGAN TO APPEAR... LEE WOULD BE EDGY AT TIMES...
LEE, I HAD AT LEAST $80 IN MY PURSE BUT IT'S GONE! I HAD IT THIS MORNING WHEN I...
OH, I... I FORGOT TO PAY THE RENT AND I WAS A LITTLE SHORT! I'LL PAY YOU BACK FRIDAY!
HE DIDN'T NOTICE THAT I WAS LEAVING... HE WAS ON THE PHONE EXTENSION IN THE BEDROOM... AND I KNEW WHO HE WAS TALKING TO... AND WHY... AS I WALKED AWAY FROM LOVE... AND FROM ALL THE MISERY I KNEW THE FUTURE WOULD HOLD FOR ME!
END

BUCK'S bag

We regret to inform our readers that Dr. Harold Gluck will no longer be writing for this publication. We have, however, asked Buck Mason, a specialist in teen-age problems, to take his place. Buck has had a wide range of experience with young people, and welcomes the chance to help you with any problems you might have. Just write him a lettter, stating your situation clearly and briefly, and be sure to give all important facts. Names will be withheld in all cases, and there cannot be any personal replies. -Editor

****

He Cheats On Her

Dear Buck:

I am sixteen years old and have been going out with my boyfriend for a year now. He told me that he loved me more than any other girl in the world, and I really believed him until I found out he was going out with other girls behind my back. I still love him, though, and can't bear to lose him.

He has asked me to marry him, but I don't know whether to say yes or no. I do want to marry him but the way he cheats bothers me. He has lied to me a lot, but denies it every time I ask him, and even though he hurts me, I love him. We've broken up a few times, but we've always come back together.

Other boys have asked me out but I always tell them I am going steady. My girlfriends tell me to go with them; they say they would never put up with my boyfriend. I don't want to lose him, though. Please tell me how to keep him and not be hurt; I can't forget him.

Signed,
Desperate

Dear Desperate:

There is no way for you to keep your boyfriend and not be hurt. He sounds like the type who won't care about your feelings, the type who will keep on cheating. Marrying him now would be a big mistake, for it would more than likely end in separation or divorce.

Take the advice of your girlfriends and go out with new boys. Your boyfriend may change his ways and attitude when he see this, and meanwhile, you will be having a good time. If he refuses to change, though, you'd best forget him. It will be hard for you to do, but in the end you'll find that it was the best thing.

Best wishes,
Buck

****

Dad Dislikes Phone Calls

Dear Buck:

I'm thirteen, and the problem I have on my mind is my dad. There are about five boys who like me and my dad gets mad when they phone. Do you think it's fair for him to tell them not to call? I don't. I like to talk, and there's something inside me that makes me talk even if I don't like the person. That's why people like me — because I'm so friendly. So do you think it's right for my dad to turn them away? He says he does it because he doesn't want me to have a bad name, but I know I won't get one.

Sincerely yours,
Phone Freak

Dear Phone:

Five boys calling you (plus quite a few girlfriends, I imagine) is a lot of phone time, and father probably doesn't want you tying up the telephone for the rest of the family. There may be other calls trying to get through; you have to consider that.

Your father may be afraid of you getting a bad name because five boys calling a girl at the same time does not happen in every household; usually it's one or two. If you really don't care for the person who's calling, perhaps you should tell him that you are busy and can't talk at the moment. This won't hurt anybody's feelings, and it will make your father happier.

Explain the situation in a mature manner to your friends, and ask them to call maybe only a few times a week. I'm sure they'll understand. Also, cut down on the length of your conversations; don't spend hours on the phone. You'll see that your father will be happier, and you'll still be receiving an ample number of calls.

Yours truly,
Buck

****

Have a problem? Write a letter to:
Buck Mason
c/o Charlton Comics
Charlton Building
Derby, Ct. 06418

LIAR!
I DISCOVERED EARLY IN LIFE THAT NOTHING I EVER DID PLEASED MY MOTHER... DAD WAS ALWAYS READY TO HEAR MY SIDE OF THE STORY AND I LEARNED TO COVER MYSELF WITH HALF-TRUTHS, OUTRIGHT DE-NIALS, AND DEVIOUS STORIES THAT MADE DAD THINK I WAS IN THE RIGHT! I FOUND OUT THAT IT WORKED IN SCHOOL AS WELL... A LOT OF TEACHERS WERE REALLY GULLIBLE... AND I ALSO FOOLED MY FRIENDS JUST AS EASILY!
IS THAT TRUE, TERESA? JEN-NIFER DATED JON WHILE I WAS AWAY LAST WEEK-END?
DON'T QUOTE ME ON THAT, WALT! ALL I KNOW IS, I SAW THEM AT REED'S SATUR-DAY NIGHT!
TERESA, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LIED ABOUT JENNIFER! YOU KNOW SHE WENT TO REED'S WITH HER COUSIN... THEY MET JON THERE!

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, JEFF!
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, TERESA ... SOME DAY ALL THE LIES AND HALF-TRUTHS YOU TELL ABOUT PEOPLE WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU!
BUT IT DIDN'T! WALT MOLLOY HAD A FIGHT WITH JENNIFER ... HE TOLD ME ABOUT IT AT SCHOOL NEXT DAY! I SYMPATHIZED WITH HIM, DEAR DIARY!
YOU'RE A DYNAMITE CHICK, TERESA! YOU MAKE ALL THE SCENES ..! STILL YOU DRAG DOWN STRAIGHT A'S!
YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW HOW, WALT.
LOOK, WALT, I'VE GOT TO FIND JEFF DOLMAN ... HE'S GOT ONE OF MY TEXTBOOKS. I NEED IT FOR MATH!
OKAY ... I'LL SEE YOU IN A LITTLE WHILE.
DID YOU DO THE HOME WORK, JEFF? CAN YOU GO OVER IT WITH ME?
WE'VE GOT SOME TIME BETWEEN CLASSES, TERRI! I'LL GO OVER IT WITH YOU IN THE LIBRARY!
JEFF WAS A REAL GENIUS ... HE UNDERSTOOD THE WORK AND HE COULD EXPLAIN IT CLEARLY!
UNDERSTAND THE THEORY, TERRI? WE MAY HAVE A QUIZ ON IT THIS AFTERNOON!
DON'T WORRY, JEFF ... IF WE DO, I'LL GET A GOOD MARK!
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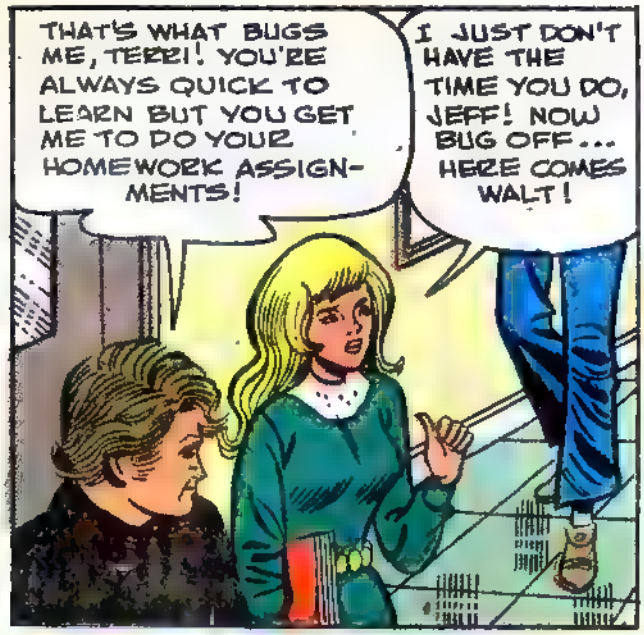
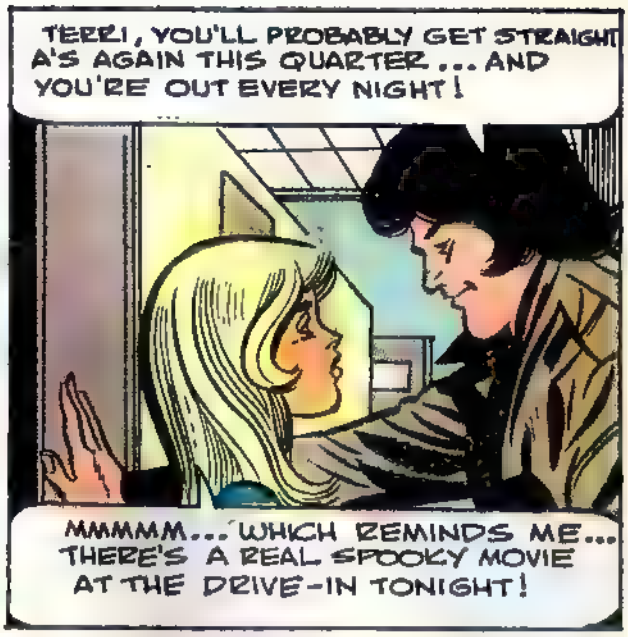
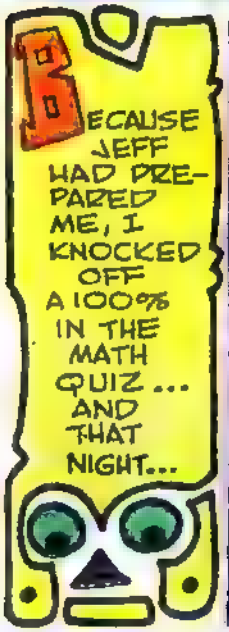
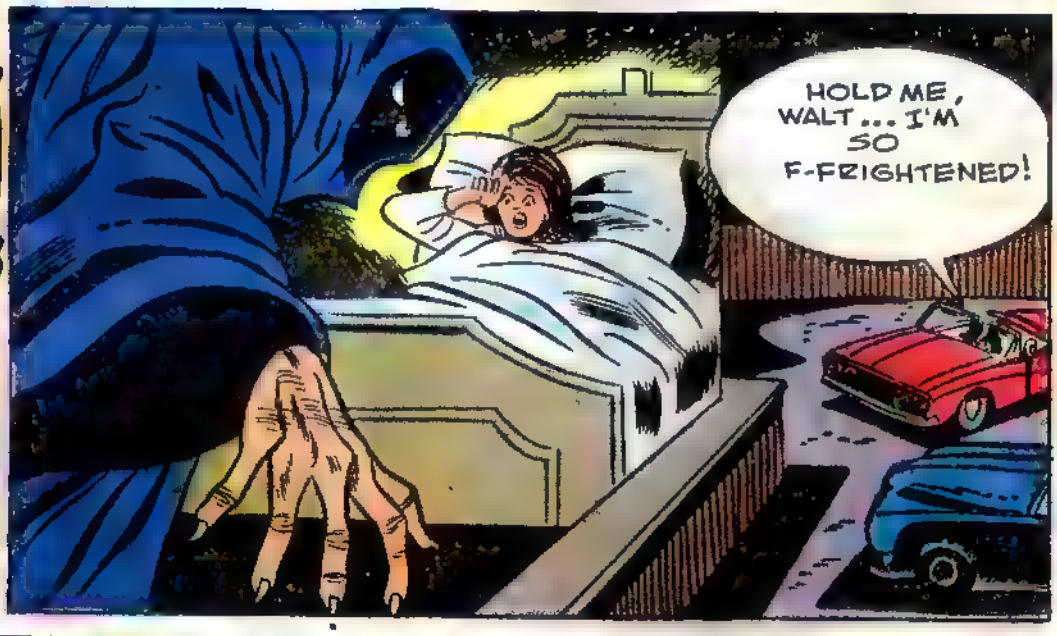
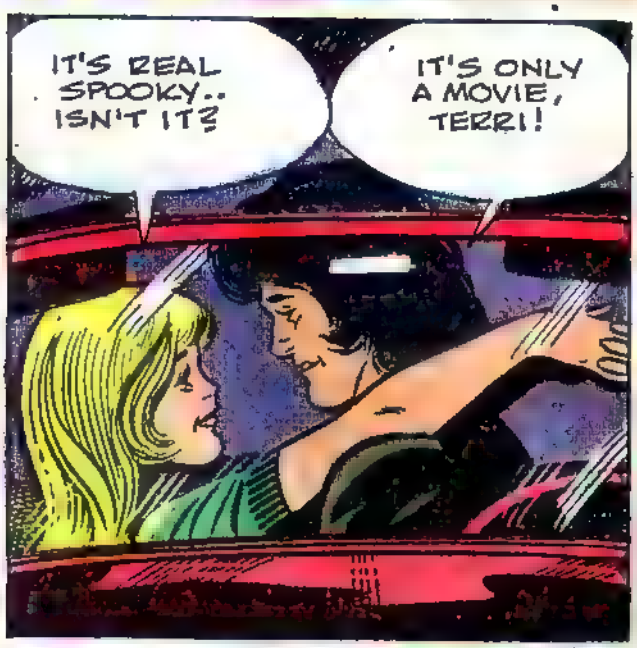
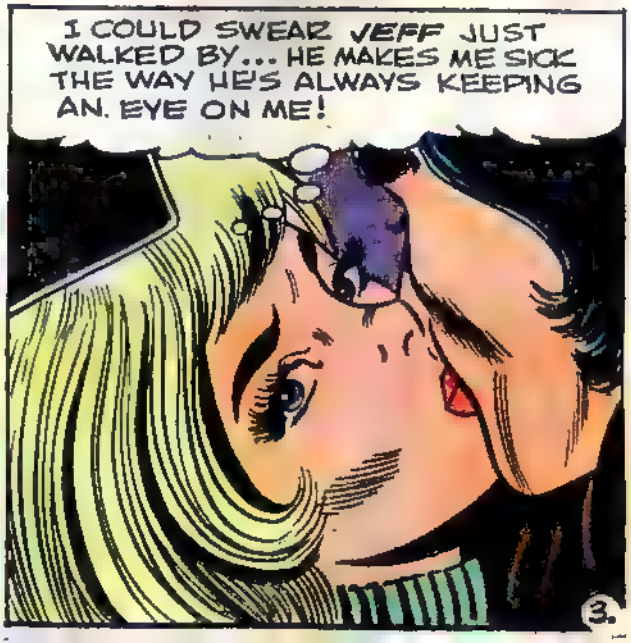

THAT'S WHAT BUGS ME, TERRI! YOU'RE ALWAYS QUICK TO LEARN BUT YOU GET ME TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK ASSIGN-MENTS!
I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME YOU DO, JEFF! NOW BUG OFF... HERE COMES WALT!


TERRI, YOU'LL PROBABLY GET STRAIGHT A'S AGAIN THIS QUARTER... AND YOU'RE OUT EVERY NIGHT!
MMMMM... WHICH REMINDS ME... THERE'S A REAL SPOOKY MOVIE AT THE DRIVE-IN TONIGHT!


BECAUSE JEFF HAD PRE-PARED ME, I KNOCKED OFF A 100% IN THE MATH QUIZ... AND THAT NIGHT...


HOLD ME, WALT... I'M SO F-FRIGHTENED!


IT'S REAL SPOOKY.. ISN'T IT?
IT'S ONLY A MOVIE, TERRI!


I COULD SWEAR JEFF JUST WALKED BY... HE MAKES ME SICK THE WAY HE'S ALWAYS KEEPING AN. EYE ON ME!
3.

I REALLY HAD IT MADE THAT WEEK! WE GOT OUR REPORT CARDS ... ONCE MORE, THANKS TO JEFF DOLMAN, I GOT STRAIGHT A'S ... AND WALT MOLLOY WAS MY STEADY BOY FRIEND... AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT... DEAR DIARY.

YOU'RE QUITE A CHICK, TERRI...

SHE'S MORE THAN THAT, MOLLOY!

JENNIFER!

WALT I DON'T WANT YOU BACK... YOU'RE PRETTY DIM ANYHOW! I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT THAT HOLIER-THAN-THOU CHICK YOU'RE WITH IS REALLY LIKE!

I WAS WITH MY COUSIN AT REEDS THE WEEK-END YOU WERE GONE! JON GALEN SAT WITH US TO TALK WITH MY COUSIN AND YOU KNOW IT!

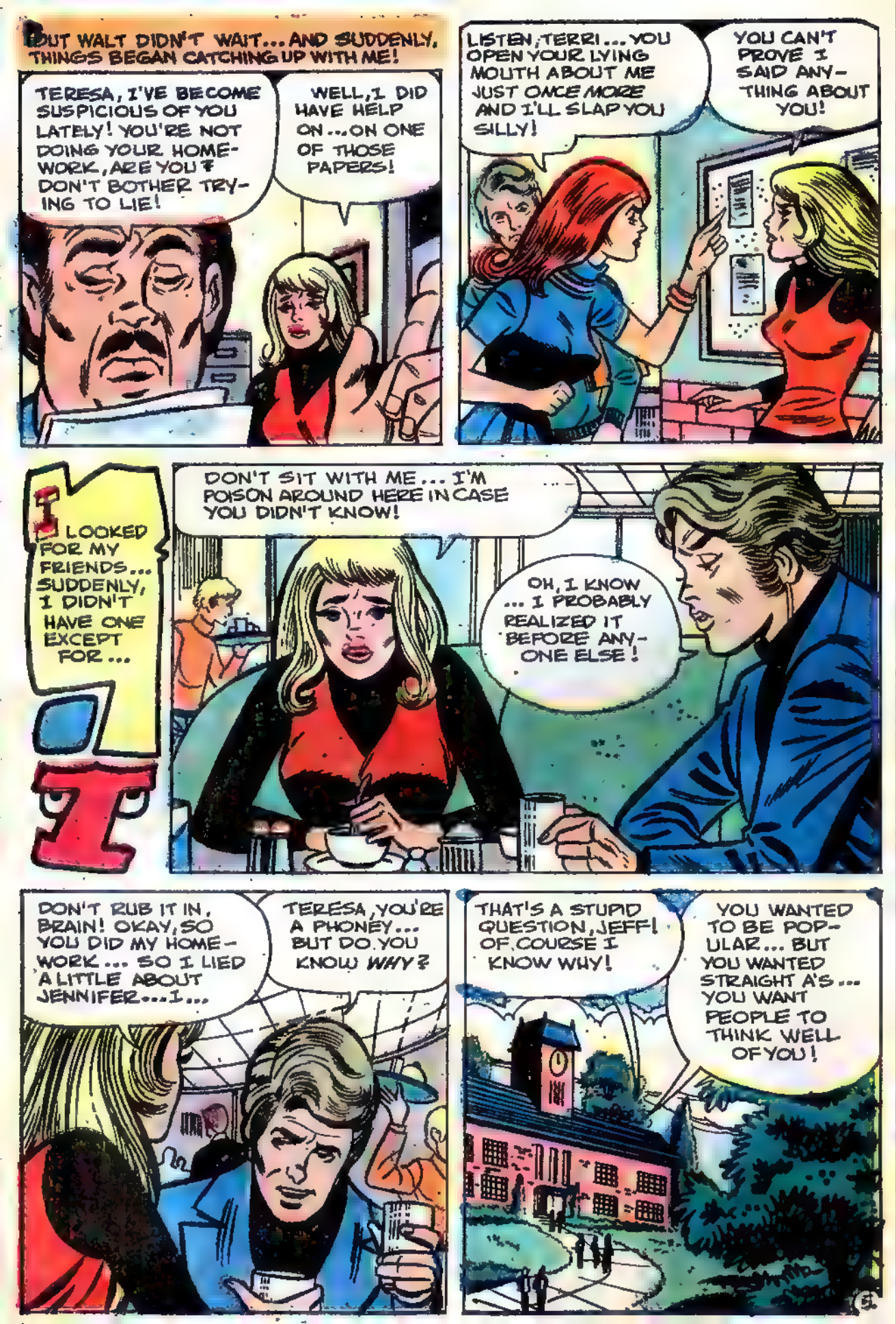
TERRI IS A PHONEY, WALT! JEFF DOLMAN DOES HER HOME WORK... SHE GOSSIPS ABOUT EVERY-ONE ... YOU CAN'T BE-LIEVE A WORD SHE SAYS!

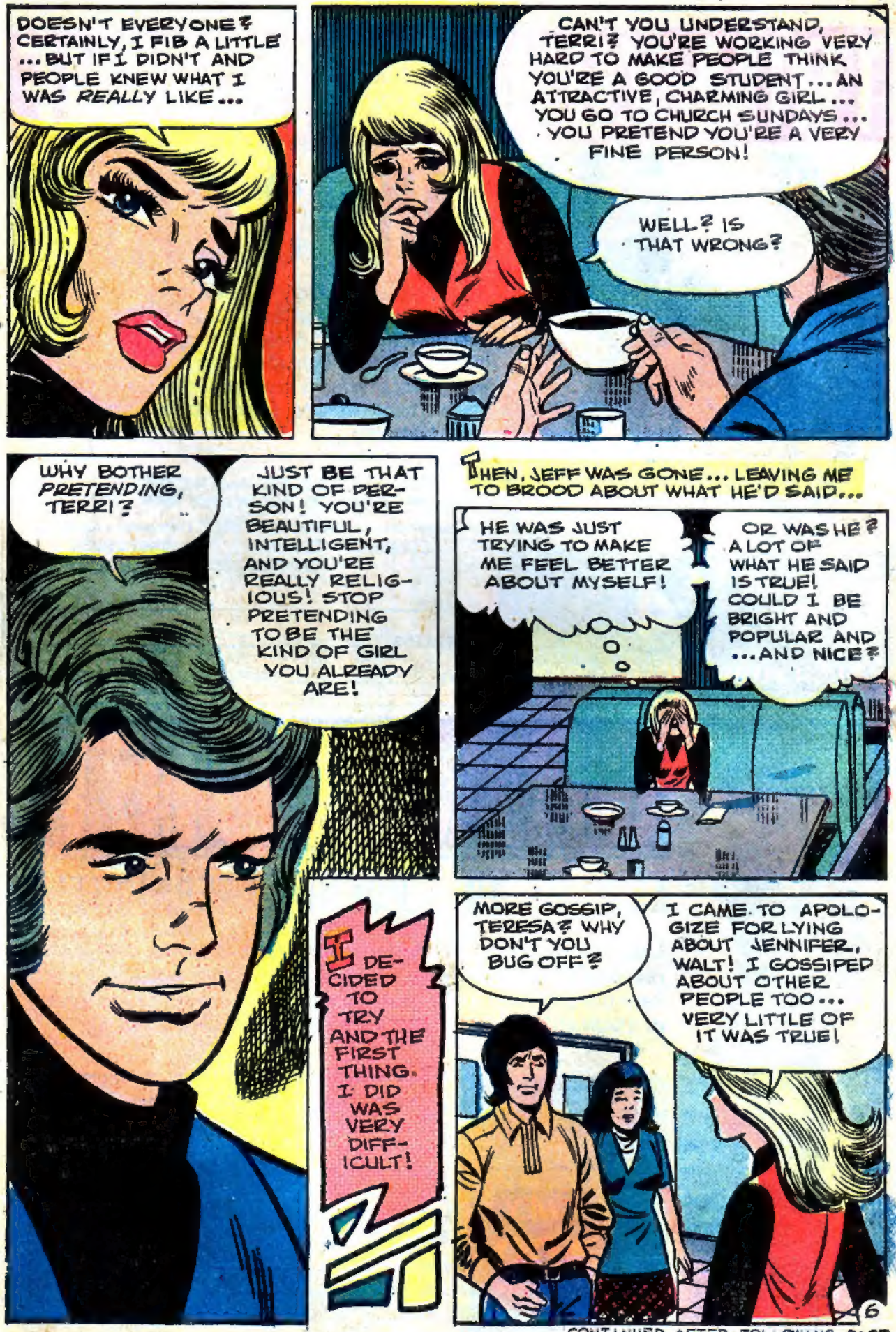
COME WITH ME WALT AND I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY COUSIN AND PROVE I WASN'T OUT WITH JON GALEN!

WAIT A MIN-UTE! I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE OUT WITH JON... I ONLY SAID I SAW YOU TO-GETHER!

YOU WANTED ME TO BELIEVE JENNIFER WAS CHEATING ON ME, TERRI! I HEARD A FEW OTHER THINGS ... NOW I'M BEGIN-NING TO BELIEVE THEM!

WAIT, WALT... LET ME EX-PLAIN!


BUT WALT DIDN'T WAIT... AND SUDDENLY, THINGS BEGAN CATCHING UP WITH ME!
TERESA, I'VE BECOME SUSPICIOUS OF YOU LATELY! YOU'RE NOT DOING YOUR HOME-WORK, ARE YOU? DON'T BOTHER TRY-ING TO LIE!
WELL, I DID HAVE HELP ON ...ON ONE OF THOSE PAPERS!
LISTEN, TERRI... YOU OPEN YOUR LYING MOUTH ABOUT ME JUST ONCE MORE AND I'LL SLAP YOU SILLY!
YOU CAN'T PROVE I SAID ANY-THING ABOUT YOU!
I LOOKED FOR MY FRIENDS... SUDDENLY, I DIDN'T HAVE ONE EXCEPT FOR...
DON'T SIT WITH ME... I'M POISON AROUND HERE IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW!
OH, I KNOW ... I PROBABLY REALIZED IT BEFORE ANY-ONE ELSE!
DON'T RUB IT IN, BRAIN! OKAY, SO YOU DID MY HOME-WORK... SO I LIED A LITTLE ABOUT JENNIFER... I...
TERESA, YOU'RE A PHONEY... BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY?
THAT'S A STUPID QUESTION, JEFF! OF COURSE I KNOW WHY!
YOU WANTED TO BE POP-ULAR... BUT YOU WANTED STRAIGHT A'S... YOU WANT PEOPLE TO THINK WELL OF YOU!


DOESN'T EVERYONE? CERTAINLY, I FIB A LITTLE ... BUT IF I DIDN'T AND PEOPLE KNEW WHAT I WAS *REALLY* LIKE ...
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND, TERRI? YOU'RE WORKING VERY HARD TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE A GOOD STUDENT ... AN ATTRACTIVE, CHARMING GIRL ... YOU GO TO CHURCH SUNDAYS ... YOU PRETEND YOU'RE A VERY FINE PERSON!
WELL? IS THAT WRONG?
WHY BOTHER *PRETENDING*, TERRI?
JUST BE THAT KIND OF PERSON! YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, AND YOU'RE REALLY RELIGIOUS! STOP PRETENDING TO BE THE KIND OF GIRL YOU ALREADY ARE!
THEN, JEFF WAS GONE ... LEAVING ME TO BROOD ABOUT WHAT HE'D SAID...
HE WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER ABOUT MYSELF!
OR WAS HE? A LOT OF WHAT HE SAID IS TRUE! COULD I BE BRIGHT AND POPULAR AND ...AND NICE?
I DECIDED TO TRY AND THE FIRST THING I DID WAS VERY DIFFICULT!
MORE GOSSIP, TERESA? WHY DON'T YOU BUG OFF?
I CAME TO APOLOGIZE FOR LYING ABOUT JENNIFER, WALT! I GOSSIPED ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE TOO ... VERY LITTLE OF IT WAS TRUE!
6

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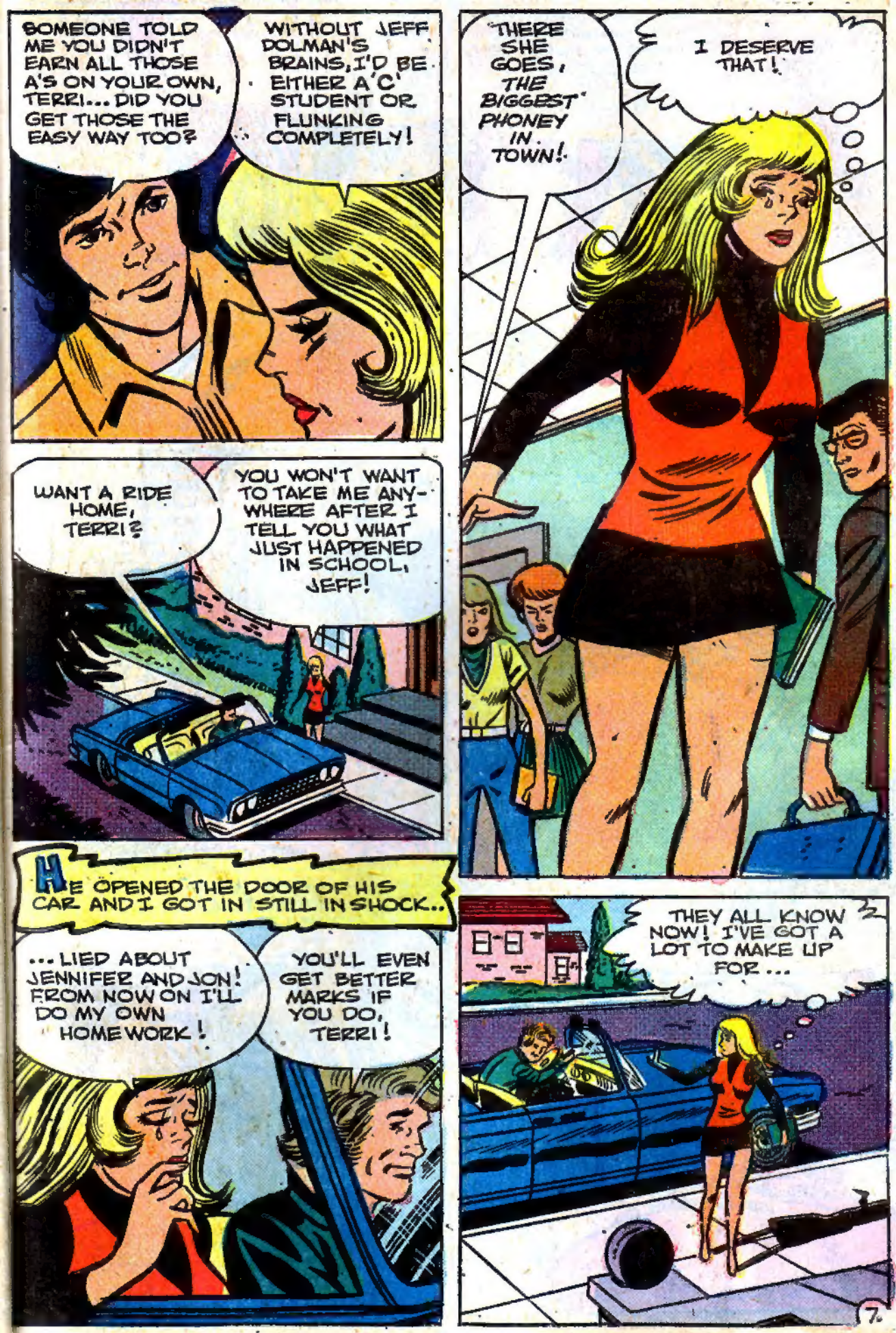
SOMEONE TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T EARN ALL THOSE A'S ON YOUR OWN, TERRI... DID YOU GET THOSE THE EASY WAY TOO?
WITHOUT JEFF DOLMAN'S BRAINS, I'D BE EITHER A 'C' STUDENT OR FLUNKING COMPLETELY!
WANT A RIDE HOME, TERRI?
YOU WON'T WANT TO TAKE ME ANYWHERE AFTER I TELL YOU WHAT JUST HAPPENED IN SCHOOL, JEFF!
HE OPENED THE DOOR OF HIS CAR AND I GOT IN STILL IN SHOCK..
...LIED ABOUT JENNIFER AND JON! FROM NOW ON I'LL DO MY OWN HOMEWORK!
YOU'LL EVEN GET BETTER MARKS IF YOU DO, TERRI!
THERE SHE GOES, THE BIGGEST PHONEY IN TOWN!
I DESERVE THAT!
THEY ALL KNOW NOW! I'VE GOT A LOT TO MAKE UP FOR...
7.

WHEN I GOT HOME, MOM WAS CYNICAL... SHE ALREADY KNEW WHAT I WAS LIKE... BUT SOME OF HER CYNICISM DISAPPEARED WHEN I TOLD DAD IN FRONT OF HER WHAT I'D BEEN DOING ALL THOSE YEARS!

I'M A LIER, DAD... IN FACT, ALMOST EVERYTHING MOM EVER TOLD YOU ABOUT ME IS TRUE! I LIE... I'VE LIED A LOT TO YOU!

DEL, I THINK SHE'S FINALLY TELLING THE TRUTH

I'M SORRY, MOM...

I INVITED JEFF TO THE HOUSE TO SHOW HIM I COULD DO MY OWN HOMEWORK...

TERRI, LOOK!

AFTER I FINISH THESE EQUATIONS, JEFF! I HAVE THE LAST ONE!

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE! I'M NO FOOT BALL HERO OR...

YOU'RE THE NICEST BOY I KNOW, JEFF. YOU'RE THE SMARTEST BOY IN SCHOOL AND THAT MEANS MORE THAN FOOTBALL!

B-BUT I DON'T DATE ...I'VE NEVER REALLY KISSED A GIRL OR...

NOW, IT'S *MY* TURN TO HELP *YOU!*

WHAT A FOOL I WAS... I ALMOST LET JEFF GET AWAY!

END

ALEX TOTH
1928-2006

IT IS PAUL PATTON WHO SLIPS INTO TANGIER'S DAPPLED SHADOWS —
BUT IT IS THE NIGHTGARBED FIGURE OF THE FOX WHO IS NEXT SEEN — AS HE STALKS HIS CLOSING PREY...

A

VIGILANTE 407

Scan